be started immediately. It was said that a sum of Rs. 63 crore assistance has been received from World Bank for this project. It is already one year after the laying of the foundation stone for the project, but nothing substantial has been achieved so far.

Similarly, nothing has been done to complete the SLBC Project for which the public and the farmers are agitating for years together.

I request the Union Government, thank you, to give necessary help for commissioning funds to complete the works at the earliest.

(iv) Need to Instruct ONGC TO Award Execution to Offshore Platforms to Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam to make it viable.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) . Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam a pioneer shipbuilding yard had diversified its activities into offshore field with active participation of the ONGC. Hindustan Shipyard has executed certain offshore platforms awarded by the ONGC in 1989. Subsequently, no works were allotted to the Shipyard, as a result of which the entire yard is lying idle.

The ONGC has entrusted with execution of two platform to M/s. Mazgon Docks Ltd., Bombay on nomination basis. Even one B-55 platform which was earmarked to Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., initially was tendered on ICB basis. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., has stood lowest in the ICB, they were deprived of the order by favouring M/s. Mazgon Docks Ltd., Bombay basing on a discount offered by them separately. Thus ignoring the claim on Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. for execution of work by ONGC is a matter for concern. The works done during the past by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd should have been considered by the ONGC. This could have helped also to a greater extent the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd to become viable.

It is known fact that both the Centre and the State are considering various measures for restructuring Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. and making it a viable ship building yard. Its viability very much depends on the offshore activities, lest it will be difficult for the yard to survive.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Minister of Petroleum that he should issue instruction to the concerned authorities that the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., should also be offered execution of platforms immediately.

(v) Need to ensure early commissioning of Doordarshan Kendra at Patna, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Doordarshan Kendra Patna has been inaugurated but it has not been commissioned so far because arrangements to provide adequate staff could not be made. Though equipments worth Rs. 42 crores have been installed therein, it has not been commissioned so far. The equipments are lying idle and getting rusted. Therefore I urge the Central Government to commission this Doordarshan Kendra at the earliest and also equire into the reasons of delay.

(vi) Need to make available River water to Punjab based on Riparain Principles

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Punjab is basically an agricultural State and agriculture requires goods irrigation, Punjab is unfortunately denied the ful use of its river waters and only one-third of the land is irrigated by canal water. That is why, almost nine lakh tube wells have been installed in the State within a small area. This has very adversely affected the availability of ground water and the level of ground water is rapidly going down. The entire river water flowing in Punjab rivers should be made available to Punjab undder the Riparian principles as applicable throughout the country so that more land can be brought under canal irrigation to increase the agricultural prodduction. I request the Union Government to take necesary steps in this regard.

(vii) Need to Draw a Special Plan for Desilting of Rivers in Assam

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the plains of Assam surrounded by the hilly terrain of the North-Eastern region are subjected to erosion and recurring floods during rainy season. Due to wanton destruction of forest and other activities including zoom cultivation in the hills, large scale, flow of silt resulted in shallowing of the river beds in almost all the rivers of the Brahmaputra basin consisting of 48 tributaries. It has also resulted in erosion and floods, formation of small islands and change of river course. Due to desposition of infertile silt over cutlivable lands extending upto five feet many areas became unfit for cultivation. In certain areas the